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Dear Colleague,

My name is Vince Catalano, and I am a professor in the Chemistry Department at the University of Nevada, Reno and a long-time colleague of Dr. John H. Nelson. John is one of UNR's most accomplished faculty members. He's made enormous contributions to UNR and as a national leader to the field of inorganic chemistry. As you probably know, John retired just over a year ago, and I am hoping that you will join me in recognizing John's accomplishments by contributing to the *John H. Nelson Chemistry Graduate Scholarship*. Our goal is to create a scholarship that will help enable graduate students to pursue careers in chemistry so that some might eventually follow in John's footsteps. This scholarship would provide funding for deserving graduate students studying any area of chemistry. John's friends have recently pledged \$10,000 to begin building the scholarship fund. They are challenging others to help them raise an additional \$10,000 in gifts (for a total of \$20,000) so that the scholarship can be endowed to make an annual award of \$1000. We are optimistic that this endowment will one day grow in size so that it can entirely support a deserving student.

John's accomplishments are too numerous to do them justice in this brief letter, but I will touch on just a few of them here. John earned his B.S. and Ph.D. degrees from University of Utah in 1964 and 1968, respectively. After his postdoctoral fellowship at Tulane University he started his faculty career at the University of Nevada Reno in 1970. He was quickly promoted to Associate Professor in 1974 and to Professor in 1979. John was instrumental in transforming the Chemistry Department into a vibrant department that valued research as well as teaching. His role in this transformation is not surprising given his strong work ethic, dedication to teaching and his incredible devotion to research. Notable among his many research accomplishments is authorship of over 230 scientific papers in the leading journals of inorganic and organometallic chemistry. He has also authored numerous laboratory text books as well as specialty monographs on the topic of NMR spectroscopy. Additionally, John has made hundreds of presentations at conferences and universities all over the world. During his career, he mentored more than 28 graduate student and over 60 undergraduate research students, many of whom have gone on to be very successful in academia, federal agencies, and other professional arenas. John's important professional service accomplishments include serving in multiple capacities in the American Chemical Society, the Chemistry Department and more broadly throughout the University system. John loves to travel and was brilliant at combining it with his passion for chemistry. He spent many months overseas including sabbaticals in France and Australia. In summary, John has had a distinguished career, and we would like to help a deserving student benefit from the chance to pursue studies in the subjects that are most important to John.

Please join us in this worthwhile endeavor. We are asking friends and alumni to consider gifts of \$500 or \$1,000 although gifts of any amount are greatly appreciated. Gifts of \$1,000 or more can be paid over a 2 year period through a pledge agreement. It is my hope that we can exceed the minimum to endow the fund and reach \$20,000 or more in total contributions. At this level, we could award an annual scholarship of \$1,000 in John's honor from the fund's earnings and hopefully grow this endowment into a prestigious award worthy of the Nelson name.

Your donation to help us honor John and his life's work and to support deserving students is much appreciated. If you have any questions or wish to discuss this project in further detail, please feel free to contact me at (775)784-6041, (775)784-1329, or vjc@unr.edu, or contact the College's Director of Development, Char H. Hagemann, at (775)682-8791 or chagemann@unr.edu.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Vincent Catalano  
Professor of Chemistry

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